

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Techniques are disclosed to provide security for user input in which a first, host operating system is used along with a second, high assurance operating system, where the first system provides at least some of the infrastructure for the second system. Two modes are presented. In a first mode, user data is passed to the host operating system. In a second mode, user data is retained in the second operating system for the use of the second operating system or processes running on the second operating system. Transitions between the nodes can be accomplished according to hypothecated user actions such as keystroke combinations, or when the user performs an action which indicates a programmatic activation of a process running in the second operating system. Where shadow graphical elements are run by the first operating system to indicate the location of graphical elements from processes running on the second operating system, this programmatic activation may be indicated by programmatic activation of a shadow graphical element.